
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Newly-formed Network Advances "Health in All Policies" in
Kent County, Throughout Michigan**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Health Department is joining forces with six other local health departments and community organizing groups to launch Michigan Power to Thrive (MPTT), a network dedicated to creating health equity in Michigan communities. The network calls on leaders to consider health consequences when creating policy. The "Health in All Policies" approach originated with the World Health Organization, and is utilized in numerous states and counties in the U.S.

Last November, seventy public health professionals and organizers created the network at a two-day meeting in Lansing. Thursday, June 26, the group will announce its first joint venture: a push to encourage cities and counties to adopt a "Health in All Policies" approach in their decision-making processes. The announcement will be made at a press conference at 5:00 p.m., June 26, at the Cristo Rey Parish, 201 West Miller Road, Lansing.

"We've worked diligently over the past two years to make staff and our community aware of the inequities in health," says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. "Our Health Equity and Social Justice Dialogue Workshops have impacted 280 Health Department employees, as well as more than 130 people from 49 community-based organizations. This network will strengthen the work we've been doing to generate health equity."

According to the coordinators of Michigan Power to Thrive:

"Local health departments have awakened to the reality that health cannot be addressed in a vacuum—the health of communities is inextricably bound to policy decisions made in education, housing, transportation, employment—the sectors we commonly refer to as the 'social determinants of health'. These are also the areas where many community organizing groups, like the affiliates of GAMALIEL of Michigan, focus their work. GAMALIEL is a major partner in MPTT, and has affiliate organizations in most of the counties that make up the new network."

Following is a list of organizations with representation at MPTT:

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| ACCESS | Action of Greater Lansing | Allegiance Health |
| Battle Creek Community Foundation | Community of Christ | Detroit Wayne County Health Authority |

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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| GAMALIEL of Michigan | Genesee County Health Department | GLAAHI |
| Grand Rapids Urban League | Healthy Equity Alliance | Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan |
| Ingham County Health Department | Institute for Population Health | ISAAC |
| JONAH Battle Creek | Kalamazoo County Health and Human Services | Kent County Health Department |
| Healthy Kent | LINC Community Revitalization Center | Kresge Foundation |
| MI Dept. of Community Health | Michigan Minority Health Coalition | MI Public Health Institute |
| michUHCAN | MOSES | MSU Program in Public Health |
| Meridian Township | NACCHO | Saginaw County Dept. of Public Health |
| School Community Health Alliance of MI | State of MI | One Love Global Power of We Consortium |
| Strong Beginnings | University of MI – Dearborn | Washtenaw County Public Health |
| Wayne County Dept. of Public Health | Wayne County Place Matters | WeROC |

(MEDIA NOTE: Kent County Health Department has leadership available for interviews for media members who can't make it to the news conference in Lansing on Thursday.)

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